

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4031

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN AIR SAFETY AND AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: A. KARACHI 1737; B. STATE 193107

1. FOR NOW AIRPORT/AIRBASE EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED BY PORTUGUESE MILITARY. ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT GUARANTEE IT, WE STILL FEEL THAT IN THE FACE OF RENEWED URBAN VIOLENCE HERE. THEY WILL HOLD THE AIRPORT AREA. THERE IS STILL, HOWEVER, THE POSSIBILITY - REMOTE AT THIS TIME - THAT SAM'S COULD BE USED AGAINST APPROACHING OR DEPARTING AIRCRAFT. THIS COULD HAPPEN IF RECENT WAVE OF MPLA ANTI-AMERICANISM REACHES A HIGH PITCH OR IF FMLA INFILTRATES INTO AREAS ALONG APPROACHES. ON BALANCE, CHARTER COMPANY CAN BE TOLD THEY WOULD BE REASONABLY SAFE FROM ACTUAL VIOLENCE NOW. HOWEVER, THEY SHOULD BE FURNISHED ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION.

2. IN ADDITION TO SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, MONITORING OF TOWER-AIRCRAFT COMMUNICATIONS BY CONGEN OFFICER FAMILIAR WITH AIR CONTROL PRACTICES HERE SUGGESTS THE SYSTEM IS ALREADY OPERATING AT PEAK CAPACITY FOR SAFE OPERATION.

3. IN SUM, SAFETY AND OPERATING CONDITIONS ARE
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MARGINAL. THEY SHOULD CONTACT SWISSAIR OPERATIONS

FOR PROFESSIONAL AND UP-TO-DATE ADVICE. THEY SHOULD
ALSO BE AWARE OF FUEL PROBLEMS AND REQUIRE A
STRONG AVAILABILITY COMMITMENT FROM THE PORTUGUESE.
KILLORAN

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